AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1-10. **Canceled**

11. **(Currently Amended)** A method for preventing surgical adhesions of tissue which comprises applying to tissue involved in surgery a biomaterial comprised of at least one auto-crosslinked derivative of an hyaluronic acid with an average molecular weight of 150,000 to 730,000 Daltons, wherein 4.5 to 5% of the carboxyl group of hyaluronic acid are cross-linked to the hydroxyl group of the same or different hyaluronic acid molecule, wherein said cross-linked derivative has a viscosity of at least 200 $Pa*sec^{-1}$ ~~to 450 $Pa*sec^{-1}$~~.

12. **Canceled**

13. **Canceled**

14. **Canceled**

15. **Canceled**

16. **(Previously Presented)** The method according to claim 11, wherein said viscosity is at least 250 $Pa*sec^{-1}$.

17. **(Currently Amended)** The method according to claim 11, 27 or 29, wherein said biomaterial further comprises a non-biodegradable synthetic polymer.

18. **(Previously Presented)** The method according to claim 17, wherein said synthetic polymer is at least one member selected from the group consisting of polypropylene, polyethylene, polyester and polytetrafluoroethylene.

19. **(Currently Amended)** The method according to claim 11, 27 or 29, wherein said biomaterial is in the form of a gel, a membrane, a mesh or a woven or non-woven tissue.

20. **(Currently Amended)** The method according to claim 11, 27 or 29, wherein said biomaterial further comprises a biologically active agent.

21. **(Previously Presented)** The method of claim 20 wherein said biologically active agent is selected from the group consisting of steroidal and non-steroidal antiinflammatories, fibrinolytics, hemostatics, antithrombotics, growth factors, antitumorals, antibacterials, antivirals and antifungals.

22. **(Previously Presented)** The method of claim 11 wherein the viscosity of said cross-linked derivative is at least 350 Pa^{*} Sec^{-1}.

23. **(Previously Presented)** The method of claim 11 wherein the viscosity of said cross-linked derivative is at least 300 Pa^{*} Sec^{-1}.

24. **(Original)** The method of claim 11 wherein said surgery is selected from the group consisting of abdominal, laparoscopic , laparotomic, intestinal, gynecologic, abdominalpelvic, peritoneal, urogenital, orthopedic, spinal/dura mater, tendon/nerve, including carpal tunnel,

cardiovascular, thoracic, ophtalmic, oncologic, plastic, esthetic, ENT, paranasal sinuses, and transplantation.

25. **(Previously Presented)** The method of claim 11, wherein the viscosity of said cross-linked derivative is at least 400 Pa^{*} Sec^{-1}.

26. (**Currently Amended**) The method of claim 11, 27 or 29, wherein said auto-crosslinked derivative of an hyaluronic acid has an average molecular weight of 150,000 to 450,000 Daltons.

27 (NEW) A method for preventing surgical adhesions of tissue which comprises applying to tissue involved in surgery a biomaterial comprised of at least one auto-crosslinked derivative of an hyaluronic acid with an average molecular weight of 150,000 to 730,000 Daltons, wherein 4.5 to 5% of the carboxyl group of hyaluronic acid are cross-linked to the hydroxyl group of the same or different hyaluronic acid molecule.

28. (NEW) The method of claim 27, wherein said surgery is selected from the group consisting of abdominal, laparoscopic , laparotomic, intestinal, gynecologic, abdominalpelvic, peritoneal, urogenital, orthopedic, spinal/dura mater, tendon/nerve, including carpal tunnel, cardiovascular, thoracic, ophtalmic, oncologic, plastic, esthetic, ENT, paranasal sinuses, and transplantation.

29. (NEW) A method for preventing surgical adhesions of tissue which comprises applying to tissue involved in surgery a biomaterial comprised of at least one auto-crosslinked derivative

of an hyaluronic acid, wherein 4.5 to 5% of the carboxyl group of hyaluronic acid are cross-linked to the hydroxyl group of the same or different hyaluronic acid molecule.

30. (NEW) The method according to claim 11, wherein said cross-linked derivative has a viscosity of 200 $Pa*sec^{-1}$ to 450 $Pa*sec^{-1}$.